

August -
September
2003

The Correctional Signpost



Early WATCH statistics show felony DUI offenders CAN change

By SALLY HILANDER, Public/Victim Information Specialist, Central Office

In its first 11 months of operation, DOC's program for felony DUI offenders is reporting 79 percent compliance among the 247 men and women who have completed the program so far.

"I find the data very encouraging. I think we are having a positive impact on this population," said Norma Jean Boles, DOC liaison and contract monitor for Warm Springs Addiction Treatment and Change (WATCH).

The WATCH program opened in early February 2002 and the first seven offenders graduated the following August 5.

In an effort to determine the effectiveness of the WATCH program, treatment statistics are collected and analyzed quarterly,

Boles said. The data presented represents the period from August 2002 through June 2003. Compliance means the offender is abstaining from alcohol; has not been arrested, is free of technical violations, and is following the rules lined out in court orders.

A total of 410 have been accepted into WATCH and 138 of those are still in the program. Twenty-five did not finish. Of the 247 who graduated, nine have received new convictions, seven involving subsequent DUI arrests, Boles said. Ten have committed technical violations, 15 have violations pending or have absconded from probation, and 17 have received interventions for drinking.

"It's not a panacea," Boles said. "Not everyone is going to change his or her life-style. It's unrealistic to expect 100 percent compliance." Boles stressed that the 79 percent rate is excellent, considering those accepted into WATCH had already racked up at least three DUIs.

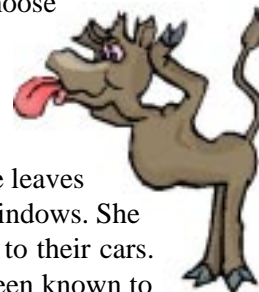
The program uses a modified therapeutic community model to provide intensive treatment while holding offenders responsible for their behavior 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Those who succeed have the remainder of their 13-month sentence suspended; those who fail serve their time in prison.

Moosing around: Wild visitor makes boot camp her home for the summer

By DIANA SOLLE, Public Information Officer, Treasure State Correctional Training Center

Perhaps only in Montana do correctional facilities have safety and security issues with wild animals.

Molly the calf moose recently entered the Multiple Purpose Room at Treasure State Correctional Training Center. She leaves nose prints on the windows. She has "escorted" staff to their cars. And she has even been known to circle around and block entrance to the building.



All of us at Treasure State Correctional Training Center (TSCTC) love to see these wild animals, take pictures, and tell stories about our moose, but encounters are crossing the security and safety lines. Molly doesn't respond to "shoo!" and even air horns leave her undaunted.

Mama moose, meanwhile, stays at a distance, apparently preferring the cool woods to the risks of human encounters.

Staff members have been advised that under no circumstances are moose to be fed or encouraged at TSCTC. Outside doors must be kept closed. Surrounding correctional sites have been contacted and will attempt to stop any feeding. Contacting Fish, Wildlife and Parks for possible transplant is not an option that we want to pursue.

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DOC analyzes new offender management system

By ANITA PISARSKY
Information Technology Bureau

Thanks to those of you who took time, despite your busy schedules, to help the Information Technology Bureau analyze whether the offender management system called O-TRACK is right for DOC.

O-TRACK is a centralized inmate tracking system developed by a consortium of western states, founded by Utah and currently led by Idaho. DOC is looking at the package as a possible replacement for ACIS and Pro-Files. We are still looking at the software features and responses so far indicate DOC employees are impressed with the Field (P&P) and the Institution modules.

The next step is a gap analysis in which we identify the differences (gaps) between the O-TRACK software and our requirements and processes; this will help us define how this system might meet our needs, and give us a realistic cost estimate. The gap analysis is tentatively scheduled for the weeks of October 20 and

November 3. The analysis will include a meeting of IBM, IT staff, and DOC field staff to discuss our current practices and needs, and to determine any changes we may need to make to the software. The IT Bureau will send invitations and schedules shortly.

We cannot emphasize enough how important and appreciated your participation is in this important process. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me by e-mail at apisarsky@state.mt.us or at Central Office at (406) 444-5510.

More about O-TRACK . . .

The following was excerpted from an article titled "Razorwired: Corrections CIOs Collaborate To Save Money and Meet Common Needs, by Eric Berkman, senior writer for the Government and IT Policy Research Center. Copies of the entire article were distributed during O-TRACK presentations in Helena.

In 1995, Utah chose the California-based Informix Software (acquired by IBM last April) to develop an inmate information system. The Utah Department of Corrections Information Technology Bureau sought other states to join in the development and share the costs.

Alaska joined in 1998, followed by New Mexico. The three states split the development costs for a basic inmate information system that meets the needs of all. The group agreed that individual states would pay for, but then share, any "extras" they may develop, such as New Mexico's gang-tracking module and Alaska's inmate-trust-accounting application.

Colorado and Idaho have since joined the consortium, while 12 other states including Montana are considering how they might collaborate.

Statistics Unit supplies the numbers

By DEWEY HALL, DOC Statistician

DOC's Statistics Unit has processed 110 requests for information since January 1, many of them from attorneys requesting sentencing information and many others from the general public.

The Unit prepares detailed prisoner population reports three times a year for the Bureau of the Census Crime Surveys Branch. Quarterly the Unit reports adult and juvenile inmate deaths to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Corrections Compendium sends surveys out monthly, which the Unit responds to. Many of you have assisted the unit in answering these surveys, which often results in our receiving information about other states' practices in return. Yearly the

Unit prepares a report on all inmates incarcerated and released for the Social Security Fraud Bureau, which they match against their database.

The Unit compiles an annual list for the Federal Aviation Administration of all people sentenced to DOC for drug crimes. The FAA uses our data to match against their database of individuals having active pilot licenses. Also, the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) uses our data to find aliens and work out deportation plans upon their release from prison.

Soon the Unit will be contacting many of you corrections professionals for assistance in completing the 27-page 2003 *Corrections Year Book*. Be on the look out for us.

The Correctional Signpost is published 4-6 times per year by the Montana Department of Corrections Central Office, 1539 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-1301.

Employees are encouraged to contribute articles, photos and ideas for future issues. Deadlines for the next issue are e-mailed to all DOC employees periodically.

See the *Signpost* on line at the DOC website
www.cor.state.mt.us.

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A Message from the Director

Bill Slaughter

That's the spirit!

Well, we all wished for a nice long summer. Careful what you wish for, I guess.

Hats off to the MSP fire crew and their supervisors for a great job on Montana's fires. And to all of you who have had to stand a post in an office or facility with no air conditioning this summer. You have shown real dedication and I respect you all.

I am most impressed by your continued hard work and positive spirit.

At Central Office, conditions are not great. When I come to work at 7 a.m., offices are often above 90 degrees already. I hear no complaints, but we have so many fans going, it's lucky I hear at all.

You know the organizational spirit is alive and well when folks work through tough times and continue to be positive, to be visionary, to be professionals.

The organizational spirit can only develop from staff. Although management can nurture it, we have little else to do with it. But I assure you we all respect it.

The spirit of an organization is critical to its existence. It can be seen in the quality and quantity of your work. But it's most obvious in how you interact with customers, clients, victims, offenders and each other.

Your professional attitudes, your willingness to help, and even your senses of humor all affect the overall organizational spirit.

I have always suspected that the secret of a happy life is not to do what you like, but to like what you do.

Each of us is responsible for the organizational spirit and keeping Corrections and public service something we like to do.

Thank you all for your efforts and attention to the public safety and trust during these hot and trying times.

Boulder community volunteers to teach Riverside youths how street law works

By CINDY MCKENZIE, Superintendent, Riverside Youth Correctional Facility

Students at Riverside Youth Correctional Facility are learning critical thinking skills while they learn how the criminal justice system works, thanks to a Street Law curriculum that places them in the roles of judge, state lawyer (prosecutor), defense lawyer and guardian *ad litem*.

Street Law is a national educational curriculum, and has become an important piece of the educational experience for the adjudicated adolescent females at Riverside in Boulder.

Special guest for the weekly class July 29 was Fifth Judicial District Judge Loren Tucker, who provided expert advice for mock court sessions to hear a case of alleged neglect/abuse of a young girl. He helped the students understand how the Montana Code Annotated books are used, clarified legal definitions, and helped the young "judges" understand the types of questions they need to ask in order to make a good decision.

In four separate mock court sessions, the "judges" determined neglect/abuse had occurred, and then they discussed the difficulty of coming to that decision.

Judge Tucker's contribution to the students' understanding of the court proceedings was a wonderful learning experience.

The response to the Street

Law curriculum at Riverside has been positive, both from the students and the people in the community approached to volunteer as expert resource people in their arena. Guests so far have included Matt Johnson, Jefferson County Attorney; John Leary, Boulder City Administrator; Steve Marquis, Jefferson County Undersheriff; Marie Fowler, Montana Department of Health and Human Services Social Worker for Jefferson County; Rich Llewellyn, former Jefferson County Attorney now in private practice; and Kendra Erickson, a Certified Chemical Dependency Counselor.

Thanks also to Ron Fuller, our school principal, and all the teachers at Riverside who are flexible with class time scheduling and willing to incorporate new ideas into the education process.

The students have greatly benefited from the role-plays requiring them to do critical thinking about how to interpret the best needs of all involved, think about what laws are needed to benefit society, and how laws are developed and enforced. Many of them have never thought about the "bigger picture" until asked to role-play as an advocate for a victim or a community issue.

It has been exciting to see them step outside themselves and begin to understand how a community must work together, and how each of them can become a leader.

REMINDER: Corrections health care staff to meet

Corrections health care professionals will meet during the September 16-18 Montana Public Health Association conference in Kalispell to discuss whether to form a professional section, which would address their unique needs. For more information, contact Julie Reardon at (406) 444-9894; jreardon@state.mt.us.

Don't be fooled

Viruses, hoaxes abound on-line

By JOHN DAUGHERTY, Information Technology Bureau Chief

Every day, it seems, someone at DOC receives an e-mail message announcing the discovery of some new devastating computer virus that no software known to man can detect. Often this warning simply tells you to pass the warning on to everyone you know, while at other times it will contain information about an infected file on your hard drive that you must delete in order to be safe. Of course, the "infected" file is often necessary for the proper operation of your computer, but because the message came from a trusted friend, you delete the "infected" file.

The most prevalent hoax of this type currently is JDBGMGR.

Hoaxes are carefully designed to fool people by using technical sounding language, credibility by association, a sense of urgency, and potential damage to your computer.



An example of technical sounding language is this: "Your processor will be put into an infinite binary loop." This sounds bad, but in reality your computer is constantly running infinite loops. The processes that detect keystrokes and

mouse movements are infinite loops.

Credibility by association is achieved by the use of well-known companies. "Microsoft announced," "a technician at Intel said," and "today IBM discovered" are a few examples.

A sense of urgency is created with the use of CAPITAL LETTERS, which seem to somehow fool the brain into making those words seem more important. Along with the use of capital letters, words such as URGENT, VIRUS, DANGER!, and ALERT are used in most of these warnings. Last but not least, the senders usually have had this happen to them because they did not get the warning in time or failed to take the warning seriously.

No legitimate virus warning would encourage you to forward the warning to everyone in your address book. Most legitimate virus warnings provide links to web pages with more information about the virus. And most virus warnings won't come from a friend, or from a friend of a friend.

Never forward any e-mail of this type that you receive at work to your friends or co-workers. Instead you should forward it only to the DOC help desk at corhelp@state.mt.us or the Department of Administration virus reports at VirusReports@state.mt.us.

Finally, if you receive e-mail with an attachment from someone you don't know, or if you feel suspicious about e-mail you receive, please forward it to one of the above addresses.



Treasure State Correctional Training Center is located on the Montana State Prison grounds in Deer Lodge

Boot camp celebrates 10 years with unique cadet-inmate intake

By DIANA SOLLE, Public Information Officer, Treasure State Correctional Training Center

Treasure State Correctional Training Center celebrated its 10th Anniversary with Intake for six new drill instructors in training (cadets) and new trainees (offenders) on the same day. This unique event occurred April 22.

The six cadets comprised the Sixth Drill Instructor Academy basic training class and all of them had positions waiting at either TSCTC or the Intensive Challenge Program in Billings after their graduation.

Cadets and trainees go through exactly the same procedures for the first couple of days at boot camp: They receive disciplinary/physical training, confrontation, and are held accountable as they learn the ropes of boot camp. Besides learning procedures, policies, command presence, drill and ceremony, they get into physical shape if they aren't already. The assignment is not easy, and it is not unusual for a cadet to drop out, but the experience teaches them how to handle the offenders.

Graduating cadets now working at TSCTC are Lyndsay Alt, who won the Academic Excellence Award, Martin Jansen, Barbara Tymofichuk and Bobby Tymofichuk. Troy Hust and Christopher Lamb are employed at the Intensive Challenge Program. The cadets received certificates of accomplishment and later will receive P.O.S.T certificates.

TSCTC staff who worked diligently to put together the Drill Instructor Academy are Superintendent Dan Burden; Drill Sgt. Wayne Cameron, Correctional Manager; Tony Heaton, Joe Fink and Ron Truex, SDIs; Sgts. RC Miller and Ed Stefalo; and Susan Porrovecchio, RN. DOC staff included Mike Ferriter, Community Corrections Division Administrator; Wayne Ternes and Lisa Hunter, trainers; and Darrell Vanderhoef, Probation and Parole trainer.

DOC Employees in the News

CO Doug Statton named MSP employee of the quarter

Correctional Officer Doug Statton was named Montana State Prison's Employee of the Quarter beginning August 1. He joined the staff at MSP June 9, 2002, and his efforts to find contraband have made the 3rd shift shakedown team a success. New COs have asked to team up with Statton. His attitude has a positive effect on other officers.

Statton volunteered to be a member of the 3rd Shift Response and Cell Extraction team and continually keeps up-to-date on policy. His efforts to make MSP a safer place to work have made a difference.

The Employee of the Quarter receives a certificate of appreciation, a special parking space during the quarter, and a pen from Warden Mike Mahoney.

Riverside honors School Principal Ron Fuller

Riverside Youth Correctional Facility School Principal Ron Fuller



was voted Employee of the 2nd Quarter of 2003. He retired as Jefferson High School principal, joined the staff at Riverside in 1997 and became principal in 2000.

Riverside appreciates Fuller's commitment to improving the quality of education for adjudicated adolescent female students. He works closely with the state Office of Public Instruction to ensure compliance with all standards, including President Bush's No Child Left Behind Education Act.

Fuller was recently trained in Street Law, a nationally recognized civics curriculum, and has provided leadership in getting that program implemented at Riverside. He is a reliable, loyal, creative employee who serves as a role model to everyone.

MSP bids farewell to special education teacher Pat Cyr

Pat Cyr, a special education teacher at MSP since 1989, retired July 4 with the following send-off from Education Director Jack Powers:



"Your professionalism, competency, dedication and spirit of cooperation has been unquestionable during this time. You were truly an asset to MSP, Montana Department of Corrections and MSP's

Education Department...I am especially proud of your commitment to our lower functioning students. You have touched the lives of many students during your tenure at MSP and you will make a difference in their reentry into society."

Steve Gibson named to K-12 education study commission

Juvenile Corrections Division Administrator Steve

Gibson has been appointed by Gov. Judy Martz to serve on a new commission that will analyze K-12 public education in Montana.



The nonpartisan Montana K-12 Public School Renewal Commission was authorized by the 2000 Legislature to complete a "comprehensive and exhaustive" study of how students are educated in Montana. Topics include revenue, funding sources, structure of school district governance, and the roles of state and federal government in public education.

Gibson also was honored recently for participation in the 24th Annual Corrections Video Festival sponsored by the American Correctional Association. The DOC Juvenile Services Division submitted its new video that describes its functions, including secure care, transition and parole services.

The 35-minute video was produced by B&B Video Productions. To see the video, call (406) 444-0851.

MSP veterans group honored

The Montana State Prison veterans group recently received the outstanding VVA Chapter award for the second time in four years.

Billings P&P Officers receive royal treatment

By JOHN BOYD, P&P Officer, Region IV

Region IV P&P officers in Billings were honored by supervisors and administrative staff with gifts, awards and recognition during National Probation and Parole Officers Week in July.

The celebration began with Monday brunch treats. On Tuesday, monthly Range Day, Officer Tom Woods and the rest of the range crew held special "shoots" in addition to regular handgun qualifying. Supervisors treated the officers to a potluck lunch and awards were handed out for a variety of accomplishments throughout the year. More awards were given to winners of the morning's pistol shoot.

The celebration continued Wednesday with "grab bags" for each officer, including pullover sweaters with "Region IV" emblazoned on the front, and a variety of other tokens of appreciation for the jobs we do. Homemade sweets followed in the afternoon. On Thursday we were honored with root beer floats in the hot afternoon, served up in special glasses etched with "Probation and Parole" on the side. Contests with prizes rounded out the week and tested our trivia knowledge (What IS a Barbie Doll's full name?*)

The effort put forth by the supervisors and the administrative staff let us know we are appreciated every day for the we do at jobs that entail risks.

*Barbie's full name is Barbara Handler, daughter of Ruth and Elliot Handler, who founded Mattel in 1959. -- ed.

Weathering hard times: Audit team gives Shelby an "A"

By **SALLY HILANDER**, *Public/Victim Information Specialist, Central Office*

Crossroads Correctional Center received a grade of 99.5 percent during a July audit conducted by the company that owns the Shelby facility on contract with DOC.

"Any way you put it, it comes up to a pretty excellent score," said Warden Jim MacDonald, who noted that of 680 audit standards, CCC was deficient in only four, none of which are related to public, staff or inmate security or safety. Two deficiencies related to food service training have been corrected, MacDonald said. Currently, visiting law enforcement officers are required to use a lock box to secure their weapons prior to entering the facility. The key to the lock box served as a receipt, but the audit team believed the facility should issue a paper receipt as well. Finally, the team cited one instance where a personnel director did not have ready access to a policy manual.

"The audit team was very complimentary in a number of areas," MacDonald said. "They were very comfortable with our sanitation level, our relationship with the State of Montana, and with staff professionalism and camaraderie."

In addition to the CCA audit, Crossroads undergoes annual outside audits by the American Correctional Association, which grants accreditation, and by DOC, which decides whether to continue contracting with CCA. In addition, DOC contract monitor Bob Paul is assigned to the facility full time.

MacDonald sees the CCA audit as proof that his facility has successfully weathered the budget crisis that required 36 layoffs from the staff of 150, and reduction of the inmate population from 494 to 288 last October. "We've been able to maintain our focus on the provision of services in spite of some pretty difficult times."

When the staff and inmate reductions threatened to leave the Shelby prison partially empty, CCA asked the 2003 Montana Legislature to allow the corporation to accept federal inmates. Once the bill was approved, CCA was able to secure a contract with the U.S. Marshal's Office to bring in federal inmates from Montana who are awaiting sentencing, or who have been sentenced and will be placed at federal prisons. The 2003 Montana Legislature approved the CCA proposal to accept federal prisoners. As a result, CCC has rehired many of the correctional officers who lost their jobs last year, bringing the total staff to 129.

The inmate population at Shelby is now at 399, including 44 federal inmates. MacDonald said the inmates have committed a "potpourri" of federal property, drug-related and violent crimes. "They are short-term, basically waiting for transport to a federal facility."

Policy, training functions realigned at DOC

By **SUSAN MERGENTHALER**, *Correctional Practices Bureau*

The Correctional Practices Bureau has gone through a variety of changes in the last few months. When Gail Baker took a position with a county agency the end of June, the policy function was moved under the Legal Services Bureau.

Until her retirement December 12, Sandy Heaton, LCPC, MSP, Specialized Treatment Unit Manager at Montana State Prison, will work part time for the Training Unit, providing Cognitive Principles and Restructuring (CP&R) training throughout the state. Lisa Hunter will develop effective CD-ROM and E-learning based training for DOC employees and pass her administrative support responsibilities on to Susan Mergenthaler.

The Training Unit's goal is to provide high quality, low-cost training to our employees.

Please direct all inquiries regarding DOC policy to the Legal Services Bureau at Central Office in Helena by calling (406) 444-3905. Policies are available on the DOC web page at www.cor.state.mt.us as well as on the I drive. To access them on the I drive, start in Microsoft Word; left click on File; left click on Open; left click on "DATA on COR....(I); double left click on the DOC Policies directory. The Personnel Manual file is titled: 1-3-1.Att-A.Personnel Manual.doc. There is a direct link to the Personnel Manual within the contents of the web page for policy 1.3.1, Human Resources Policies.

To access the Training Calendar, from your e-mail Folder's List, double

click on Public Folders, then double click All Public Folders, double click on COR, double click on COR Training, look down the folders until you find a folder titled Training Calendar, left click Calendar. You then can move from day-to-day, month-to-month or week-to-week to view scheduled Department of Corrections training.

To access Training Forms, from your e-mail Folder's List, double click on Public Folders; double click on All Public Folders; double click COR; double click COR Training; scroll until you find Training Forms and Publications; left click on this file; scroll down and double click on the Request for Training Form; it will open into an Excel document, which you will be able to fill out and print.

New Employees Through August 2003

Bozeman P&P Office

Katie Donath
Jack Harrington

Central Office

B. Joan Hunter
Brenda Thompson
Ted Ward
Mandy Williams-Wels

Great Falls Regional Prison

Patricia Wooldridge

Missoula P&P Office

Chuck Poland

Montana State Prison

Paul Bence
Jonathan Blanche
Michael Fuller
Jean Guindon
Rosanna Hengst
Rebekkah Hulen
Sam Jovanovich
Ronald Knight
Kelly Knutson
Ronald Mitchell
Sally Odden
P. Gaye Pritchett
William Sanders
Antigone Star Cramer

Norbert Weber
Lacie Williams
John Whitchurch

Montana Women's Prison

Jeffery Gee
Rita Giebink
Catherine Green
Anthony Spence

Pine Hills YCF

Joseph Clapsaddle
Edwin Elhard
Aaron Essex
Bonnie Lura
Laura Monasmith
Karla Murnin
Mary Regan
Virginia Roberts
Julie Taylor

Riverside YCF

Jeanine Ford
Ted Nelson
Kara Welton

Treasure State Correctional Training Center

Daniel Highley
Saajid Muhammad

Job Corps helps bring Tin Cup Reservoir into safety compliance

By GAIL BOESE, Administrative Officer, MCE

Youth volunteers from the Anaconda Job Corps have worked with Montana Correctional Enterprises to bring Tin Cup Reservoir on Montana State Prison property into compliance with state dam safety standards.

Tin Cup Reservoir was one of the five reservoirs on the prison ranch considered high hazard under the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Dam Safety Act.

The first phase of work has been completed due to hard work by the Job Corps students using their expertise in heavy equipment operation to move dirt and rock and place riprap along the shoreline. DNRC inspectors were pleased with the accuracy of the project, including compacting of the flat surfaces, exactness of the elevations and the superb riprapping job.

The Job Corps uses their own equipment and MCE supplies the fuel and oil to run the equipment and any other materials needed on the job site.

MCE wholeheartedly supports the Anaconda Job Corps and recognizes it as an outstanding program that provides young adults with training and educational skills needed to secure employment in long-term, specialized careers.

Kalispell P&P office expansion will improve staff security

By Paul Berg, Administrator, Region V Probation and Parole

The Region V Probation and Parole in Kalispell is undergoing a remodel to provide a larger and more efficient work space and better security for staff. Region V serves four counties and supervises about 1,200 offenders.

The Kalispell office is housed on the second floor of the Triangle Building. As programs and services have grown, we have progressively taken over more space, resulting in staff separation and reduced security. We ended up with four separate waiting rooms, and offenders have considerable access to our office areas.

The remodel, due for completion in September, provides a central lobby area where all offenders check in with support staff before being escorted into the interior. Other features include controlled building access, a secure evidence room, ammunition storage, staff restrooms with showers, a UA lab, staff break area, and conference rooms.

Region V staff appreciates the support and assistance of the DOC Director's Office, Community Corrections Division and Centralized Services.

TRAINING from page 6

To access Training Schedule and Resource Calendars, from your e-mail Folder's List, double click on Public Folders; then double click All Public Folders; double click on COR, double click on COR Training; look down for the folder titled Training Schedule and Resource Calendar; left click on either Schedule DOC for Department of Corrections training scheduled, or Schedule Others for a listing of other training opportunities.

Please direct training questions to Winnie Ore, wore@state.mt.us, (406) 444-7795; Wayne Ternes, wternes@state.mt.us, (406) 996-2420; Lisa Hunter, lhunter@state.mt.us, (406) 846-1320 x 2483; or Susan Mergenthaler, sumergenthaler@state.mt.us, (406) 444-7917.

For Correction Detention Officer Basic information, please contact Rae Ann Forseth, rforseth@state.mt.us, (406) 458-2083. For POST Council questions please contact Susan Mergenthaler, (406) 444-4763, sumergenthaler@state.mt.us.

Summer 2003 a busy one for inmates on wildland fire crew

By GAIL BOESE, Administrative Officer, Montana Correctional Enterprises

Montana State Prison's wildland firefighting crew launched its 2003 fire season with 10 men in June, but the number of firefighters was soon increased to 15 when minimal precipitation, high temperatures and drying conditions brought on extreme fire conditions.



Members of the Ridgerunners lay hose on the forest floor at one of the summer's fires.

Tom Gillibrand is fire crew supervisor, and officers Shannon Ray, Eric Miller and Keith Chiddix are also supervising. A crew boss from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) works directly with the crew.

Gillibrand reports that he has received positive comments regarding the Ridgerunners, and is pleased with the work they have done.

We appreciate the hard work of all firefighting crews in their commitment to protect life and property as the fires continue to burn across Montana.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MISSION

The Department of Corrections is dedicated to public safety and trust by holding adult and juvenile offenders accountable for their actions against victims through custody, supervision, treatment, work, restitution and skill development.



_____ copies of this public document were published at a cost of _____ cents per copy, which is based on a total estimated cost of \$ _____. The *Signpost* is printed by Montana Correctional Enterprises, which provides vocational education training for inmates.

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